

K-478

Alfalfa Dell Farm  
Near Chestertown  
2nd quarter 19th Century

Located a short distance west of Chestertown, this frame Italianate farmhouse has been considerably altered by the installation of aluminum siding and "wrought iron" porch posts and balustrades. The elements which make the building recognizable to architectural historians as Italianate are still visible. The boxy two-story building has a low-pitched hip roof and bracketed cornice. Originally it was nearly identical to a structure on the adjoining farm built for Francis Cann in the 1840's or 50's and which Henry Ward Carvill incorporated into his larger Italianate house now known as Brampton. The two front windows had jib doors beneath the sash for easy access to a front porch which no longer exists. The service wing appears to have been only one room long.

In the 1877 Atlas, the farm appears to have belonged to Josiah Ringgold, Jr., whose father had owned the adjoining farm, part of Killy Langford. It was called Mount Pleasant or the Worrell Farm and adjoined the Alms House Farm.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## State Historic Sites Inventory Form

### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Alfalfa Dell Farm

### 2. Location

street & number South side Rt. 20, .4 miles west of Brice's Mill Rd.,  
West of Chestertown. \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Chestertown \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Kent

### 3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
___ district	___ public	___ occupied	___ agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	___ commercial
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational
___ site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	___ entertainment
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	___ military
			___ museum
			___ park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			___ religious
			___ scientific
			___ transportation
			___ other:

### 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name George Robert Moffett

street & number RD #2, Box 109 telephone no.: 778-2256

city, town Chestertown state and zip code Maryland 21620

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Court House liber WHG55

street & number folio 382

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. K-478

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☐ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The house is a two-story, broad 3-bay-wide house with a lower 2-story rear ell in the Italianate style of the 1850's and 1860's. The plan is central hall. The main section's roof is low hip, and the wings' roof is a shallow gable.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. K-478

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This house is a modest, rural Kent County expression of the Italianate style popular in the 1850's and 1860's. The owner/builder splurged where the style's details would be noticed - on the brackets of the approach facade and sides of the main section, the imposing main entry, the stair and stair hall, the approach facade's windows, and the living room trim. Elsewhere the house is quite plain. The interior of the main section has not been greatly altered while the rear ell's has. Prominently visible from Route 20, this house is one of several (Middle Plantation, K-252; and K-471) in the same style from the same period in the area.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. K-478

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Margaret Q. Fallaw, Surveyor		
organization	County Commissioners of Kent County	date	5/27/81
	Historical Society of Kent County		778-4600
street & number	The Court House	telephone	778-3499
	Church Alley		
city or town	Chestertown	state	Maryland 21620

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.1 DESCRIPTION (continued)

Building Form and Material

1. Size - Main Section: 2 stories, 3 bays wide (wide for 3 bays),  
2 bays deep  
Wing A: 2 stories, 1-2 bays wide (about 1/3 width of Main  
section), 3 bays deep
2. Plan type - central hall with one room each side
3. Roof type - Main Section: low hip with flat center section  
Wings: shallow gable
4. Chimneys - Located in the main section each end, within wall;  
Wing - rear gable end center, within wall. Made of brick. Decorative  
elements are - main section - band near top; wing - same, perhaps  
rebuilt
5. Material/Walls - Main Section: Frame, white aluminum siding over  
weatherboard (about 5" exposure); there may have been pilasters  
covered or removed during siding application.  
Wing: white aluminum siding over weatherboard -  
Frame.
6. Material/Roofs - Main section: asphalt shingles  
Wing A: standing-seam
7. Material/Foundation - brick (basement) once white washed. Through-  
out - 2 light metal basement windows - replacements.
8. Age - Main Section: 1850's-1860's  
Wing: Same - foundation brick is continuous; the rear ell  
therefore appears to have been built at the same time as the main  
section
9. Style - vernacular Italianate.

Building Elements and Details

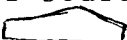
1. Doors - Main Entry: Located in the center bay of approach facade;  
double doors with large single recessed panels with wide (2") flattened  
ogee and bevel panel molding; aluminum storm doors. Large hood over  
entire entry with bold, wide brackets at the sides and eight small  
brackets spaced in between on the frieze. Bold recessed-panel  
primary pilasters with simple bases and simple capitals of composite  
moldings; secondary recessed-panel pilasters between side lights and  
doors with composite s curve brackets about 5½" wide at the top.  
Three-light sidelights with single recessed panel below. Six-light  
transom with the central 4 lights larger than the side two . 7½"  
high transom bar with 3 corbelled segments. Top lights of sidelights -  
etched patterned glass.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.2 DESCRIPTION (continued)

Secondary Entries: <sup>1)</sup> Located in the wing - east side, central bay - brick stoop - 3/4" fillet and 3/8" bead; mid-20th century 6-panel door; <sup>2)</sup> west side - to secondary porch from wing - has original door (4 panel with Greek ogee and bevel molding). <sup>3)</sup> Under-stair door to porch opposite main entry. Brick steps at door from rear gable (door and frame added early to mid 20th century).

2. Windows - Main Section: type - double hung (narrow muntins)  
lights - large-paned 6/6 - frame trim runs to floor

details - 1st floor approach facade windows had jib doors, visible now only on the interior, covered by aluminum siding on the exterior; sills added. Wide frame (simple split face) with wide ogee and bevel and outside 1" fillet. 2nd story windows same size and type as 1st except for center bay, where the window is flanked by 2/2 double hung sidelights. Main Section - those windows not on approach facade have plain, unmolded board frames while retaining a slightly pedimented head.  very shallow

shutters - removed; those on approach facade started at porch floor

Wing: type - double-hung  
lights - smaller 6/6  
details - large, plain sills; 3/4" fillet with 3/8" inside bead  
shutters - removed

3. Dormers - None

4. Roof details - Main Section: no brackets at rear, where there is a shallow overhang (8-10"). Approach facade and sides - large brackets with drop and prominent central bulbous projection/drop. Pairs of brackets at corners of approach facade and building sides (about 12" on center). Elsewhere brackets are single and about 36-40" on center. Box cornice with small, simple crown and bed moldings. There may have been a gallery in the central, flat section of the roof.

Wing: Box cornice with bevel-and-small fillet crown molding; mid-20th century base board molding as bed. Overhang at eaves - about 10". Gable-end verge boards overlay siding. If small brackets were indeed originally present, they were not restored following re-siding.

5. Porches - Located on approach facade - very low hip roof with wide raised edges as viewed from above; mid 20th century brick foundation and steps (with recessed joints) and concrete floor. Porch and stair balustrades - mid 20th century metal. 3 bays wide, 1 bay deep. Original support posts replaced by metal columns. The roof appears to be original, with its large cyma reversa crown molding, box cornice, and broad fascia. The same 3-part stepped

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.3 DESCRIPTION (continued)

molding as used inside for window aprons was used on the fascia. Spaced-board ceiling (replacement). Secondary porch - in corner of main section and wing - replacement concrete floor with brick foundation and steps. Very shallow hip roof. Access from rear door of central hall and from kitchen hall. Screened. Original roof with box cornice and large cyma reversa crown molding. Replacement support framing. Metal door to basement at side of porch - stairs beneath porch.

6. Color - current: white aluminum siding  
historic: unknown

7. Other - bathroom added on 2nd floor landing of main section.

Interior Description

1. Plan type - central hall with rear ell continuous with east main section side wall with porch in 1 where main section and wing join on west.

2. Major stair - open-string with 2 turned balusters per step. Dog-leg type. Massive tapered octagonal newel with turned 3-part cap and rail continuous from newel to 2nd floor landing side wall. Mahogany or walnut newel and rail. Yellow pine treads. Simple scroll brackets each step. spandrel - five raised panels with Greek ogee and bevel molding. 4-panel closet door. (now leads to  $\frac{1}{2}$  bath). Rear window at intermediate landing. Modern bathroom added in part of 2nd floor landing at front of house.

Other stairs - enclosed straight-run - in wing along wall next to main section; originates in hall from dining room to kitchen.

3. Major mantles - Greek Revival Style. Living room - rectangular opening with tall plain frieze above; broad plain pilasters with simple base and single small pica of molding at top (or double bevel). Plain straight shelf. Plaster over mantle. Some kind of insert (perhaps cast iron) lining fireplace. Dining room - same surround but opening closed (with access door). 2nd floor main section - 1 fireplace each bedroom - slightly different mantles but very plain. Flush hearths. Wing - 1st floor - recently rebuilt fireplace (room used for den) with raised brick hearth and brick facing.

4. Major trim - Windows/Doors: Main section approach facade - jib doors - 1 panel each. Living room and hall only - wide ( $6\frac{1}{2}$ " ) window and door trim with split face and ogee and bevel and  $7/8$ " outside fillet; main section 1st floor - same shallow pedimented window and door heads as on exterior. Main section 2nd story and dining room - door and window trim - wide ( $4\frac{3}{4}$ " ) outside board, 1" recessed fillet and three/quarter round bead trim. Thru-out first floor -



## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.4 DESCRIPTION (continued)

3-part stepped/corbelled window aprons. Wing - plywood paneling used in remodeling with much new trim. Several 4-panel doors remain, in 2 different styles.

Baseboards: Most removed for baseboard heating; what remains is 6" board and 1" plain cap.

No cornices or chair rails.

5. Major doors - main section - 4 raised panels with wide, flattened ogee and bevel panel moldings

6. Floors - random medium width yellow pine; dining room-added strip oak. Sheet vinyl, carpeting - wing.

7. Walls/ceiling finishes - Wallpaper: painted plaster; modern sheet paneling - wing, 1st floor; ceiling tile (wing - 1st floor).

Outbuildings/Site Description

1. Major outbuildings - mid 20th century - metal sheds and grain dryers, concrete block stable and office.

Dairy: early 20th century? once painted white. 2' high concrete foundation with vertical boarding above; steep gable roof with wood shingles. 6-panel door. Viewed exterior only.

2. Site Description - The house is set back from Rt. 20 about 650 feet with the main facade facing that public road. Three spaced rows of trees run from Rt. 20 to the front lawn. Lawn, shrubbery, and trees are in the immediate area of the house. The lane from Rt. 20 runs to the east of the house, leading to the agricultural business buildings to the southeast of the house and to a large paved parking area. Grain drying is in 1981 the main use of the property, with horse-raising a secondary use. Accessory buildings include an office, stable, grain dryers, and large metal storage sheds. There is a racetrack to the far southeast of the house (behind the dryers and stable) and a horse-show ring next to it. (The track is in fact not in the location shown on the USGS map - 1953; revised in 1973).

3. Views to/from site - This house (on slightly elevated ground) and business site is surrounded by cultivated fields with trees in the distance on all sides. A single house is visible in the distance to the west. By virtue of their number and size, the structures accessory to the grain drying business currently overshadow the house.

Use of Building

Current - unoccupied residence

Historic - residence





View to Southwest

ALFALFA DELL FARM (K-478)

Chestertown, Kent County

Photograph: M. Q. Fallaw, May 1981